

HEAVENLY META

VOLUME II

ISSUE # 4

\$1.25

IDLE
CURE



Idle Cure

Idle Cure's music has been gaining acceptance all over lately. Their debut album on Frontline Records is full of a wide variety of hits. It reminds me a whole lot of Foreigner 4 (I think Idle Cure is better). There's a couple rock hits (remember **Juke Box Hero**?) and some great ballads that are picked up by the more commercial radio stations (like **Waiting For A Girl Like You** was). You gotta hear it. The production's flawless.

Bloodgood's first encounter with the band describes their diversity well: Bloodgood was at Frontline's offices looking for an opening band for their upcoming national tour. They heard **BREAKAWAY**, the killer opening tune on this album, and said among themselves, "We need to look no further. We'll tour with these guys!" After they heard the second song, **SILENT HOPE**, they said, "I don't know. Maybe not."

"The album is very diverse," says Steve Shannon, the man with the defiant yet polished vocals on this album. "I can see where the headbangers might not like it. On the other hand, a lot of my friends that like metal love Bon Jovi. I wouldn't call Bon Jovi metal. I would call Bon Jovi mainstream. I would say there's a transition line where you don't have to be Bloodgood or you don't have to be Motley Crue.

"I would say the next album is going to be more raw. I don't know if I'd say we're going towards a more metal feel, but maybe more power. I'd say the metal influence is there in the band."

I, for one, have been waiting for Idle Cure before they came out. Two of the members, Steve Shannon and Chuck King, recorded a song called **BREAK OUT OF THE NIGHT** that ended up on Maranatha's **BACK TO THE ROCK 2** album. It's an awesome tune! (You can probably find it in the cut-out racks at your Christian bookstore.)

"It was, in a sense, a forerunner of things to come," says Steve Shannon. Steve was in another band with Idle Cure's second guitarist, Mark Ambrose, called Sojourn. Both Sojourn and Eden came together to form Idle Cure.

"**BREAK OUT OF THE NIGHT** was really just a one-time shot," says Steve. "Eden was in a bind, because their singer had just gone into another heavy metal band in Hollywood. The opportunity came for a song on that compilation album and Chuck, who's been a good friend for some time, asked me on short notice to sing for 'em. It really was quite a blessing, because God just kinda brought all the different elements together.

"Eden was geared much more for a metal sound, while Idle Cure is, you know, trying to keep the edge, but I think our musical roots and our designs are a little bit more in the mainstream rock sound. Eden was more of an all straight guitar band, whereas we've got a keyboard player now—Rob Watson."

The roots of Idle Cure are very interesting. John Elefante, who replaced Steve Walsh as the lead singer for Kansas in 1981, was in Sojourn. "He was still with us when he tried out for Kansas," says Steve. "We were all really excited for him and were prayin' about it."

When John got back from the tours with Kansas, he told the

guys in Sojourn about all the exciting things that happened with Kansas, but he still said one particular event with Sojourn sticks out in his mind even more.

The band was in Northern California for a gig at a high school during the day and at a church that night. (Sounds like an awesome school assembly, doesn't it?)

Apparently, one or two of the parents attended the high school gig and decided that they did not like the band and said they would not let them play at the church. They boycotted the performance at the church.

"We were naturally a little bit annoyed and everything," continues Steve, "but you had to understand: this part of Northern California was very conservative.

"Instead we wound up playing at the youth detention place. It wasn't a juvenile hall, but it was basically a prison for under-age kids.

"We all went in there kind of dead, spur of the moment. It was pouring down rain and it was a cold night and we had to load the equipment in the rain and all this stuff. So, at the very end of the night, we get through with the gig and everything and we were loading everything into the van. A little blond kid called John over and John comes over and talks to him.

"There was a big long bank of cells. It was a jail cell that had the side open and it was raining. He asks John to help him accept Christ. He's holding John's hand through the cell. It's pouring down raining and here's John standing out there just huddled up. All he's got on is sweats and a pancho. He's holding this guy's hand, praying with him to accept the Lord.

"I'm, like, looking at Mark and saying, 'Don't you wish those folks boycotting that church could've seen this?' How many 15 year olds that are in prison accept Christ?

"Sometimes you have to go out on the battle lines. Sometimes you have to go out against Satan and use your shield of faith against him. Sometimes you need to go out in the world full-force, dressed in worldly garb, and be a light.

"I don't think there's anybody in the band that's forgotten that. It's one of those situations that just sticks with you."

I asked Steve to tell me a little about **BREAKAWAY**, their sizzling rocker on the album.

"Well, **BREAKAWAY**, interestingly enough, was when we were in Sojourn. I have maybe kind of a sassy persona on stage. I like to get real defiant and walk around on stage. In the early days of Christian rock music, plenty of churches would look you in the face and say you were carnal. One of the things we love so much about Frontline is they're not afraid of the cutting edge of Christian rock. In fact, the more off-the-wall the band, the more attracted they are to it. They wanted us to pull out all the stops. Mark and I got together to rewrite **BREAKAWAY**. He wanted to put into a song that kind of defiant, sassy persona on one end. That's why it's kinda got a Joe Elliot style on it. I won't call it a Def Leppard rip-off, but maybe inspired by that kind of sound.

"We also wanted to purposely make it a little defiant. I look upon non-Christians that are just not chewing it. We tried to get a little bit smug and say, 'Hey look man! You don't need to...it's not necessary for me that I help you

find the way. You know? If you don't want to see the facts, man, that's your problem.' So I get a little smug sometimes.

"Sometimes defiance is the best way to communicate. That's why we like to...it challenges people. That would probably be a good word for **BREAKAWAY**: It's a challenge. So, musically, it's kind of put together to communicate that too."

Tell me, what was your inspiration for the line in **SILENT HOPE: "In the alley you lay broken/ Neon message: 'Jesus Saves?'"

"When I was 12 or 13, I was kind of a latch-key kid. Both of my parents worked. So, when I'd get out of school, I would go spend the afternoon with this wonderful Christian lady. She went to the Church Of The Open Door there in Los Angeles. It's dead downtown and was built when LA didn't have much of a skyline and stuff like that. They've got this huge neon sign and it covers maybe seven or eight stories. It's in big, bold neon and it moves up and down and says 'Jesus Saves.'"

"I went there one night, because she had to stay late with one of the several Christian Women's committees that she was on. I was kind of getting claustrophobic and so I went outside and was walking around downtown. Of course, in any downtown city at night, the derelicts come out.

"There's a big park in front of this library and had all these little alcoves. All these derelicts were out lying on benches and stuff. There was this guy, and I'll never forget, he was sitting huddled in the middle of this little alcove and he was just kinda looking up at the sign.

"At the time it didn't really mean that much to me. It's not like it had any meaning to it, but I never forgot that picture. It's always just stayed vivid in my mind. Later on, when I was involved with music and a bunch of my friends became involved in drugs, I would see it turn their lives around. That image came into my mind too.

"So, what the song is, it's about people that I've known that've gotten over-involved with drugs and then I pulled in that image that I'd remembered from another time to involve somebody that was getting down in dope, either on a bad trip or having some sort of withdrawel. I put them into the place of this derelict in the alcove.

"So that's kind of what it was. It was like writing a song about people that I'd known that had been into drugs and experiences that I can remember friends having and all of a sudden that image just hit me like a silver bullet, just wow!"

**Do you have any tour plans?

"We did part of the album not quite a year ago and, if you counted pre-production and everything, we probably spent close to six months altogether on the album. Then immediately we started getting ready for one primary gig, which we did New Year's Eve at Knott's Berry Farm. We did that and it went really, really well and everything.

"Now we're just sitting back, collecting our thoughts, giving the matter a great deal of prayer and seeing exactly what's in store right now. We're not sure. We're working with a couple of agents and we're not sure whether or not that would involve a tour or playing some more local gigs or whatever."

**Is your live sound much the same as the record?

"Well, we didn't know it, to be honest with you, because all of the songs we did on the Idle Cure album had never been performed live. We had a whole bunch of songs, of course, and once we started writing for the album this new direction emerged. We really liked it, so all the music we took was newer. We got so involved in the studio and the production level just got higher and higher. All of a sudden it was, 'Man, are we gonna be able to pull this stuff off live?'

"We got a lot of feedback on the New Year's gig. Remarkably enough, and much to my happiness, lots of people liked it. You know, the tightness and precision was there, but there was still the power that a live performance gives you. So, there's lots of promise there. We weren't sure if we were gonna be able to be a live band. We're a big band. We're six pieces on stage.

"We had some great bros on stage with us on New Year's Eve. Dave Spurr, who is the Christian rock and roll drummer, played drums for us. He's on the album. He's so sought after for his studio work that it would be foolish for him to be a full-time touring member in a band. He really missed the live performing though. He told us that he'll play any live gig that's local.

"We've been auditioning for a drummer. We'd like to use Dave on our next studio album and get a drummer for touring and work him into the studio. We may just go with two drummers.

"For the New Year's gig, Jeff Nicholson of The Darrell Mansfield Band played bass. We had a great time."

**Tell me more about the new album coming up.

"The target release date is August. All four of the members on the album all write. Mark Ambrose, the guitar player, will write music and lyrics. The three of us will switch around. I'm mostly a lyric man. Chuck has a little porta-studio at his home. We're kinda doin' the pre-production now and getting the songs written. We would like to choose 10 songs out of 30, if possible.

"I'll be honest with ya. I myself am just a complete studio idiot. I could do nothing but just go into the studio. To me, it's just like a big, wonderful, creative puzzle. That's what really excites me, not that live performing doesn't.

"What you can do and the equipment from album to album, if it takes roughly a year to do an album, changes so much. It's moving so quickly right now, you can hardly wait to see what you can do the next time. Even by the time you finish an album, there's already things you would've changed."

**The sound on your album is really polished. It's commercial, and I don't mean that as criticism.

"It's one of the things I like seeing so much in music right now. It's exactly like you say: 'It used to be if you're a rock band and commercial at the same time, it was a naughty word. But you see a lot of musicians that are rockers, anywhere from Bon Jovi to Billy Idol, who have commercialized their sound, but still haven't sacrificed what they believe in and what their musical vision is. All commercial means is you're just reaching more people, trying to tune in into what people are wanting to hear. That's how I look upon commercial. I don't look upon it as selling out or, 'Gee. What can we do to sell a million albums?' It's just, 'Hey! What do Christian people want to hear?' They



I Was Struck By Aslan!

It was an eerie night in Austin when I first experienced Aslan. I was driving home late from work after working nearly four hours of overtime. (I was working this so I could buy new speakers for my car) The air was so dense with fog that visibility was limited to 300 feet. I should've known something extraordinary was gonna happen.

I got home and started opening the mail. I saw a small package from Canada, which I thought was another tape sent that I would record Sword's demo on. Instead of a blank tape, I pulled out a first-class cassette. The packaging is all black with thin pink lettering. Emblazoned on the front is the outline of a lion standing on its hind legs, similar to the Ferrari logo—only this lion has a crown on its head. It looks first class all the way.

It was 1:00 AM by this time, but I had to hear what Aslan sounded like. That was a mistake. I got so excited after hearing this tape that my energy level shot up 310%—a sorry state for someone wanting to sleep.

Things haven't been the same the last two days. I find myself foaming at the mouth, jumping around the apartment and playing drums on the steering wheel when I drive—all to the tunes of Aslan. This group is hot! Yes, I'm freaking out again. I can't stop raving about this band out of Toronto.

Do you want some intelligible critique of this music? I'll try to calm down enough to think clearly. First of all, Aslan's music is melodic. They list their influences as:

"Rush; Genesis; Saga; Dire Straits; Yes; and various other mainstream and progressive acts." I'd have to throw in early Triumph on that list.

Their production on their three-song demo tape is top-notch. It's polished, but it's not wimpy, because the guitars are up-front. It has a confidence that shows Aslan is musically right where they want to be. They're young—their collected age is 80, but you don't listen to 'em and say, "These guys have potential." You say things like, "These guys have arrived!"

Their excellent arrangements are complimented by intelligent lyrics. **TAKE ME**, the first song on the tape, moves along at a pace that makes every word intelligible: "Every plastic laugh/ Shields a desperate cry/ Every smiling mask/ Hides crying eyes/ Lord I know that You/ You can see right through/ Every smile I fake/ Everything I do./ Take me! and hold me/ Take me! and mold me./ All I wanna be is what you have for me/ All I wanna see is your face in front of me/ Take me!" Dan McCabe, fellow Toronto resident and member of The Daniel Band, adds backup vocals to this chorus.

DIGITAL DREAM is another brilliant song that shines lyrically. "In this age of silicon dreams/ The hearts of men are cold/ They have no time for peace of mind/ And the story is so seldom told/ Of One who came so long ago/ And taught us all how to be free/ Without the aid of microchips/ And computer circuitry.

"And I will seek a higher goal/ One that few may understand/ And with purest heart I will follow/ I will follow His command."

SILENT SCREAM is the showstopper of the tape. It starts off with some meaty guitar riffs that are very reminiscent of

early, early Rush (like, their first album). It is another of the now many anthems taking a stand against abortion.

"Twisted morality/ The racist lives on/ The minority here/ Is the helpless unborn/ Unable to vote/ They voice no unrest/ No union support/ For some unfinished flesh."

The music moves at a brisk and urgent pace until a concluding break near the end of the song. Everything seems to stop as the music slows to a mesmerizing pace. The guitar reverberates a vibrato-squeezing chord, while the synthesizer makes a run above it that adds depth and texture. The effect seems to still the heart of the listener—the same way a beautiful sunset does. The smooth vocals of Jeff Bersche come in and warn: "If we could realize the errors of our ways/ Then we could rise above to a better way." The whole effect makes an impact, for sure. This is music that forces you to listen, yet definitely gives you enough guts to headbang and air-guitar to as well.

This wonderful tape is available through the mail for \$4 postpaid. Do I hear an amen? Send orders directly to the band by writing Karl Nielson, 10 Howard Dr. Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2K-1K5.

Vocalist Jeff Bersche and bassist Karl Nielson founded Aslan in September, 1984. The other members are: Jeff Johnson (not the one featured in this issue) on drums and percussion; and Jeff Miller on guitars and vocals.

The band takes its name from the classic C.S. Lewis children's novel, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

All the members of Aslan share a deep and vital faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior as well as a commitment to originality and professionalism in their music. Their major goals include recording and touring, preferably in a full-time capacity.

They are working on this now, as they are shopping for a label in order to complete their demo into a full, nine-song album. They are also playing in and around Metro Toronto. They even played at Greenfest '85 (Greenfest is the mega-festival held every year in England, which has showcased such groups as Jerusalem, U2, Steve Taylor and Rez).

Their fact sheet proclaims that, "Aslan is four young men willing to devote their lives to playing music with a meaning." Because their sound is so excellent, I think the only things that could get in their way are pride and ego. Let's lift them up and pray that God would bless all of their efforts and open every door for their message to be heard.

Deroque

Question: What area is a "hotbed of activity" in the Christian metal scene?

Answer: Southern California.

Enter another band into the LA metal picture: Deroque. Deroque, named after singer Steve Deroque, is rumored to have that Dokken, melodic metal sound. They don't have a demo out at the moment, so the only way to hear them is live.

They are actively gigging the LA club circuit, playing about every other week. They opened up for Lita Ford in January.

Their stage set is totally gnarly. Each guitarist has nine cabinets, which are fed by four 100-watt Randall heads. The bassist has two cabinets and two horns himself. One look at their stage and you know they rock.

Their audiences are typically 50% Christian. 100% of them have a good time, yet what they hear is heavy.

"We pretty much lay down the facts," says Steve. "That's pretty much been the motto of the group: giving the people the facts about Jesus being born of a virgin; lived; died for our sins; and rose again on the third day and is alive right now."

Steve gives us an example of what he'll say: "Jesus is in this very room. He's right here. Right now. I know I'm not the only one who's told you about Jesus. Someone else has told you before and the Lord's been following you. You know you've been hungry. You've been searching for something. It's no coincidence that you're here tonight. You know he's been trying to get your attention. You're not gonna be able to sleep tonight without thinking about what we're saying."

*What's the typical response?

"Awe. Mouths open. The Christians are all just cheering it on, but from what I see, a lot of people are just, 'Whoa!'

"They dig it. I know I dug on it when someone talked to me that way, with that kind of authority. It was a confirmation for someone to talk to me that way."

*How do you feel as soon as you walk on stage?

"I always feel excited. It's pretty much a high. There have been times when I've been out there before and it's, like, not so high. I felt sober. I don't like that feeling. I guess at those times I was more anxious about things I shouldn't even worry about at all. I just trusted in Him, because you always know He's gonna do something whether you're in the mood or not. Most of the time, though, it's been major excitement."

*What are your prayers like before you go on?

"Mostly that we be yielded to whatever He wants to do and that He'll go forth. We always want to be open to how the Lord wants to move."

"One of the things we hated to see in Christian bands and in ourselves is non-professionalism. The secular world often looks at Christian bands and say, 'Well, what do you expect? They're a Christian band.' They don't really present the gospel as professional or even as exciting as they ought to. That's something we really want to do. We want the Lord to do that through us."

*What's going on in your head while you're singing?

"When I'm singing, I think that I am pretty much just concentrating on having a blast in what I'm doing. Trying to be real."

"I remember an old band that I used to be in...We did a gig that was really heavy metal, really tough sounding. I used to always put an image up. A lot of people were giving this tough look, like g-r-r-r-r, you know? A tough image or something."

"That would be fine, but an image is all it is. You're just puttin' up a front. That's not really who I am. I just wanna be real with the audience the whole way through. I just like to get people to smile and have a good time. I also want people to understand I'm serious. That's pretty much what I think about."

****What kind of advice would you give to young bands starting out?**

"Stay together. Make sure that the Lord's put you together and, when you know for sure that He's put you together, you stay together. Secondly, encourage. Encourage. Not to neglect rebuke, but encourage each other and stay tight with the Lord.

"Part of the rebuke that people do has a 'holier than thou' attitude. People are more apt to confuse rebuke with discourage. It's hard to like or be around somebody that's got done totally thrashing you mentally and with a 'holier than thou' attitude. That's pretty much the trip that people are sick of and I'm sick of it too. If that's the image we're portraying, then forget everything. 'Holier than thou' does not cut it. Encouragement never hurts. You would never get discouraged from someone who's always encouraging. Someone who's always blessing you, always building you up and tells you how good you are. It's a blast.

"I used to have a pastor that would come up to me and say, 'Hey Steve! Blessings on you!' I'd have the worst day of my life and he'd throw blessings on me. I'd just go, 'Wow!'

"He'd say, 'I love that smile,' and I'm not even smiling. He'd make me smile, you know? I'd be just blasted out of my head. He lifted me up—something I think we definitely lack in the body."

****What do you feel God is telling you these days?**

"Get back to the things that remain and get back to the first love. The body just needs to strengthen itself. We're not being grounded and we definitely need to be, especially all the converts that come from the heavy metal area. **People are worrying too much about being cool.** They talked about that at Sanctuary last week.

"They just got done telling everybody, 'We know you're cool and everything, but let's put the cool image away for a minute and let's worship the Lord.'

"It's a heavy thing man. When you're all cool and somebody sees you worshipping the Lord—you all of a sudden don't look too cool. It's pretty humbling. Cool is not humble, but the Lord honors our humble response. The Lord definitely is the One that's got the guidelines for being cool. It's not us, it's not anybody. That's something that we really lack—is being grounded. The image is secondary. Although in the band, we definitely work on our image, but we want to make sure it's not the basis for anything. It's nothing. It's absolutely nothing."

****How can the reader of Heaven's Metal pray for ya?**

"Definitely pray that just the temptations that are in front of the band, that we would be able to jump the hurdles. There's pride, there's vanity, there's envy, there's lust. There's everything and magnify it a 1,000 times. You're on the front lines, being an example. That's the hardest thing to do is being in front of all these people and having to be an example. Definitely it's the basis for temptation. Pray that we would be able to jump over those things.

It's tried our patience and aroused our curiosity. Time and time again we'd lose hope and then we'd hear a rumor that said it'd be soon. It has finally happened after almost three years: Barnabas has released **LITTLE FOXES**.

For Barnabas fans, this album holds no disappointments. Right from the start this album rips and snorts its way into the metal genre. It is consistently more metal, song for song, than any previous Barnabas effort. This is due, of course, to guitarist Brian Belew. He dishes out a full helping of crunch chords on this album. His leads are impressive, but it's his distorted rhythms that give this album its metal manhood.

The only drawback with this vinyl may be the reaction of some ears to Nancy Jo Mann's voice. She doesn't seem to compliment the heavy sound of the rhythm section, but she comes grittingly close in songs like **LITTLE FOXES** and **DESTROY AFTER USE**, where she lets it r-r-r-i-p-p!

The music's got much more of a live feel than their other albums, which used more keys. This album crunches along like no other in all of Christian metal. It's not heavier than Saint or Leviticus, but the guitars here chop, dice and split like most of the hot secular bands do. Brian Belew plays with no apologies, reminding us how powerful the basic rock chords can be.

The title track gets Gary Mann rockin' on his bass, while Nancy Jo exposes the deceptive work of the "Little foxes" in Satan's kingdom.

DESTROY AFTER USE, probably the album's best cut, bluntly tells us the truth about the devil's strategy and how he feels about the people he uses. He hates his followers and he hates you and he hates me. He hates everyone. He hates and hates and hates. He uses people for his purposes and then he destroys them, or at least tries to. (Read Job 1 & 2) The only hope for someone caught in the devil's game is Jesus. The music has the proper emotions of anger to match the message perfectly.

AUSCHWITZ '87 blazes along at headbanging speed. Brian cuts a real mean lead here that scorches! Recording this song must've worn out two or three of his fingers!

The rest of the songs could blend together in one song, almost. **ALL ALONE** is a departure, being somewhat mellow and featuring keyboards.

SUITE FOR THE SOULS OF OUR ENEMIES is continued from the last album, **FEEL THE FIRE**. Part one was called **HAMMER AND SICKLE**, while part two is called **LOVER**. Suites are the concept that I thought Barnabas did so well. That's why I'll always prefer songs like **BREATHLESS WONDERMENT** to their straight ahead rockers. **BREATHLESS WONDERMENT** is a six-minute, 48-second epic that serves as part three of a trilogy of songs on **FEEL THE FIRE: PRELUDE; THE DREAM** and **BREATHLESS WONDERMENT (THE DREAM BECOMES REALITY)**.

In conclusion, I'd say, "Check out **LITTLE FOXES**. Considering the female vocals, it might not be for everybody, but it's good rock."



Paradox

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PARADOX

Paradox — It's a statement that seems to contradict itself. After hearing this band play, a lot of folks would say, "It's a paradox that this band exists." They rock so heavy that it seems hard for some to believe they are ministers, but it's true.

"A lot of people accept our message," says Phil Galicia—former bassist for TNK, because it's valid before God; but they don't accept our appearance, because it's not valid before society."

This band played to a small audience in Austin last month and they let 'em have it, decibels and all. Guitarist Fernando Hernandez stood serious and motionless as he let his guitar speak for itself. I should clarify that and say scream and, sometimes, even sing for itself. He started out the show with mega-distortion and proceeded to drive the faint of heart out the door.

The band described their sound as not being thrash, but straight metal—old metal. Let's put it this way, their music is in your face.

Paradox is: Manuel Castillio—lead vocals; John Vidaurri—rhythm guitar; Ephrain Galicia—the very capable drummer at age 14; Fernando Hernandez—lead guitar; and Phil Galicia—bass.

They have played secular gigs and had a mixed reaction: "Ya'll sound great, but your message sucks."

"Our goal," says Fernando, "is to reach the world, to save

souls. We'd like to get in bars." Their lyrics are blunt, like their music. They play a song called (are you ready?) **HEAVEN'S METAL**, that Phil used to play with TNK. It talks about how a lot of people look everywhere else for happiness, except the place where it's at—Jesus.

The chorus goes: "Satan, you are through/ We hate everything that you say and do/ The Bible says you are trouble/ So get your wimpy face/ And get it out of my way/ Heaven's Metal."

Future lyrics should deal with Bible prophecy. "We want to talk a lot about prophecy," says Fernando. "People hear the same word from a lot of bands, but they need to know what's gonna come. There's so many people who have never heard about the rapture, the anti-Christ and stuff like that. A lot of people don't wanna talk about it."

Paradox has a group scripture that goes along with their name, John 12:25. "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." If people will think of that scripture whenever they think of the band, God can do a mighty work right there.

For prayer, the band asks us to pray for souls to be saved. "That's our main intention," says Fernando, "not to just go out there and rock, but to minister to people."

Heaven's Metal will keep you posted on any demo tape plans, which are just tentative now.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 86? DO YOU REMEMBER?

First of all, before I forget it, I want to thank Marilyn Peterson from Greenbelt Festivals LTD, Press-office, London, for having sent to me **SIRAIT** issue # 27 (June 86), just for free with a thick file of press release documents, shortly before I went to Greenbelt last summer...with a nice note: "Cheers" (after something that made me upset).

I just read the "News" page in that issue and the following thing struck me: "U2 recently headlined the Self Aid unemployment benefit concert in Dublin—a 12 hour rock music extravaganza of Irish and Irish-related music. Included were The Pogues, Van Morrison, Elvis Costello, Rory Gallagher and the reformed Thin Lizzy—to pay tribute to the late Phil Lynott."

Thin Lizzy is maybe not as famous as the Rolling Stones, or as popular as the Beatles were, yet they made an impact. According to hard-rock fans I meet, Thin Lizzy doesn't sound like noisy heavy metal. The band is not as provoking and shocking as Van Halen or Hanoi Rocks...not as nasty as W.A.S.P., Manowar or bands of that kind. Be honest: Do you agree with me? That is why I preferred that band more than others I used to listen to before my conversion (exception: Lynyrd Skynyrd).

At daily prayer-time, two years ago, the Lord told me, "Don't forget to pray for the former Thin Lizzy musicians." I did pray for them. Anytime I could remember, I had to do so, and—striking coincidence!—few Irish Christians do so! Only few...never mind, never mind! The Lord rejoices even when two or three persons sit together to pray sincerely for the same subject. But once, as I was praying for Scott Gorham, Brian Robertson, Gary Moore and John Sykes (former Tygers of Pan Tang guitarist), the Holy Spirit interrupted me and revealed to me, quite miraculously, (I can't explain—it just testifies God's power): "Phil Lynott died." Imagine my reaction: I felt like falling into pieces, only because God dared to let me know it at the right time and even two days before Phil Lynott's death. (It's a double revelation: amazing! I realized that the Holy Spirit could spread out the gift of knowledge in a dimension that is humanly...not possible to explain...) Believe me, God didn't inform me that way uselessly: Was Phil Lynott on the point to convert himself? (I ask this question as wisely as possible, because nobody knows—except God Himself.) One thing is absolutely sure, the band itself expressed in their songs a lot of feelings related to what is going on in Ireland: a "religious war" (I don't mean a holy one!) between the Northern and the Southern part of the country. The songs **HOLY WAR** (Thunder and Lightning LP) and **RENEGADE** shortly mean: "We're fed up with that nonsense fighting that you call a holy war!" (Similarly, U2 expresses the same—as Christians.) I agree with you: Thin Lizzy expresses rebellion...not only rebellion against religious nonsense (Divisions provoking wars, such as in Ireland, for instance.), but also fear towards the future, despair, disappointment and sadness. **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE** (Bad

Reputation LP) is maybe the best example: "Poor soldier of fortune, wondering what he was fighting for..." Farther on in the song, this soldier of fortune feels so sad that he could cry (After having seen the results of war, I guess.) I can remember Phil Lynott's tearful voice in that song. Then you can hear the sound of drums that might be played by a whole army of soldiers (As during the French Revolution).

How do you feel about revolution...war?

The most striking song I ever heard is **DEAR LORD** (Also on "Bad Reputation" LP). Striking because I wonder if this prayer to God is meant seriously. If yes, I would admit that Phil Lynott was looking for God, or did something particular happen in his life as he wrote this song?

Another song, just before **DEAR LORD** says: "If you climb the mountain, then you will see, there's no great distance between the Lord and me."

And the last one I would speak about is called "ANGEL OF DEATH" (**RENEGADE** LP), which sounds autobiographic. Phil Lynott explains how his father died through a spell-cast on him. Something escapes to my attention somehow; that witch from the 19th century who prophesized that the end of the world is close... What's the connection between the death of Phil Lynott's father and that witch who lived obviously a long time ago... (Remember: Phil Lynott had Mexican roots...appears clearly in the song, **MEXICAN BLOOD**...) I just can't believe that Phil Lynott invented the story of this song. At my sight, he looked too clever to dare writing such a tasteless joke that no-one would believe...(a dream he would have liked to be taken as a life-experience!)

In a rock-music programme on French TV (two weeks after Phil Lynott's death) you could see that last video of the song played with Gary Moore "OUT IN THE FIELD." No pompous comment (about his life, etc) only a TV screen-headline: **PHIL LYNOTT** and dates of birth and death below as on a grave... In the worst French hard-rock mag they published the very last interview with Phil Lynott (as he began to play in a band called "Grand Slam"). He told about all the professional projects foreseen for the future. Poor Phil!! many of these projects have never been brought to achievement. Then I could recall the story of the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21.

And today, I felt the emergency to bring the following message: as Christians we need to praise the Lord for having the privilege to be His children. We don't deserve it also because we happen to neglect our responsibilities towards those who feel spiritually hungry and who don't know Jesus as personal Saviour. I realize that we have to apologize for our unconcern towards non-Christians (sinners) whoever they might be. As long as some of us (even myself) take pleasure at criticizing, judging and treating non-Christians like enemies (even if they are at the sight of God) instead of obeying to the most important command which is to love God and our neighbours as ourselves... How would people believe that God is love? I take it for myself, first of all, and I keep on musing over this question.

Dear friend, whoever you are, maybe you think "many died before Phil Lynott, without knowing God"... That's true, but it doesn't mean that we should allow Satan to remain the master over sinners' life, because Jesus died for ANYBODY'S sins...

Phil Lynott died through heart-attack. I think it's the most terrible way to die for a non-Christian. I mean that a wounded heart is easily destroyed by fear, nervous-breakdowns, sadness. ONLY JESUS IS THE PERFECT SURGEON who can give a perfect new heart: those who live in the darkness need to hear this good news TODAY. Hatred and self-destruction (even "self destruction blues", according to Michael Monroe - Hanoi Rocks, the Finnish rock-band) are symptoms of a heart-disease called "emptiness", often fed by unconcern and the most killing poison: Silence!

Might the Lord help each one of us involved in a ministry to catch opportunities to spread out Jesus' love around, in the neighbourhood and among people we're called to meet specifically. I hope that the Lord will renew spiritually all the Christians playing in a band (because of easier opportunities to draw near to such bands as Thin Lizzy, might they be nastier, worse... never mind!)

TODAY the Lord wants to take back all the things (music, arts, etc.) that Satan masters.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL, whoever you are!!

If you want to give your point of view, you're simply welcome to write to:

Elizabeth BIEBER
146 route du Polygone
F - 67100 STRASBOURG (FRANCE)

Special thanks to: THE LORD

Loren CUNNINGHAM (Youth with a Mission)

Mary MITCHELL (Dublin, Ireland)

Claude SANCHEZ (Montauban, France)

Daniel BAILLOD (Prayssas- France...)

especially for the similar vision about the need to form the first Christian hard-rock band in our country!

And many many more...even unconverted hard-rock fans I meet regularly or just once!

METAL TRACKS...

Holy Danger has moved to...guess where? Southern California! They are proud to announce the awaited release of their new full-length tape—ONE WAY.

The tape starts out with a live recording of ROCK FOR YOUR MAKER and features re-mixes of some of their older tunes: BREAKIN' OUT; NO ESCAPE FOR THE RUNAWAY; STRANGER and LORD BEHIND US. ONE WAY is also re-mixed here, along with the "anti-abortion/ pro-distortion" DON'T SLAUGHTER YOUR DAUGHTER. It was all recorded on a 40-minute BASF Chrome Pro II cassette and includes lyrics. If you'd like it, a donation of \$5.60 is recommended to be sent to: Commercial Attractions, PO Box 1302, Burbank CA 91502-1302. (Make checks payable to Commercial Attractions) The band adds, "If you cannot afford the price for this tape, please send what

you can. Our hope is to let as many as possible hear the encouraging message of this collection of righteous rockers."

Wrath is a new Christian group from Medford, NY. Keep posted for more info.

Saint is going to court! It seems that Chrysalis Records and Armoured Saint are getting a bit anxious about the attention Saint is getting. They feel like people are confusing the two groups because of their names.

Pure Metal's reaction is commendable and portrays an attitude we should keep: "It is somewhat remarkable that Saint, often describing their brand of heavy metal as 'Apocalyptic Metal,' are making serious inroads into the secular market and causing these defensive actions by Chrysalis."

Praise God! The Lord's got 'em scared. Here comes the Word with the sound.

TIME'S END entered the Billboard Inspirational Charts at #29 and has climbed to #22 with good sales to back it up.

MASTER OF THE METAL entered the same chart at #22.

Leviticus, another Pure Metal artist, has finally hit the record stores with THE STRONGEST POWER. I forgot to list the new personnel in the last article I wrote on 'em. Terry H is solely handling the vocal position and Ez Gomer has taken over the bass position. Hakan Anderson, the former bassist and lead vocalist, is now the sound engineer. That means we'll hear a new Leviticus soon. Leviticus Forces Fan Club tells us that we'll see their third album released this spring!

Faith Of Steel. Out of the Dallas area comes a young and talented group called Faith Of Steel. "We are all in high school right now," says drummer Scott Meath, "but I feel that our band is above high school level."

I would definitely have to agree with Scott's statement. They formed in October, 1984 and have played all original songs at local high schools, churches, etc. near Dallas.

Last year they even recorded a video and have seen it aired on Dallas Cable's video show, Dallas Music Videos.

They have recorded an impressive 45, which features METAL WITH MEANING backed with OUR SAVIOR.

METAL WITH MEANING starts off with the sound of a wave and goes into crunching chords and heavy drumming. The band harmonizes well during the chorus.

Scott and bassist Ronnie Steelman shine in this song, with a good rhythm hook near the end of the song.

Mark Laguna, the guitarist, does a good job with his leads. There's not a lot of flash, he goes for a more melodic, blues-based riff on these two songs.

OUR SAVIOR starts off with a modified chorus of: "He is our Savior," and starts power chording away. There's some good hooks here, both guitar-wise and vocally. The drumming and bass back up the song with a solid beat.

They definitely sound comfortable in the studio. They don't come off like they're striving to be above high school level, they already are above that level! The average age of Faith Of Steel is 17.

The lyrics on these two tunes are straight forward and uplifting. Their lyrical topics range from praising God to drunken driving (DEATH ON WHEELS).

If you would like this hot disc, send \$3 to: Faith Of Steel, c/o Scott Meath, 3921 Mesa Dr, Plano TX 75074.

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WHITE CROSS

White Cross is one hot band. The world is definitely gonna hear from this bunch in the near future! These servants of our Lord picked up Bob Hopkins and drove him to one of their gigs, where Bob did the following interview with guitarist Rex Carroll.

****How did the band come together and how long has it been?**

"The band started in January of '84. It was actually started by Scott Wenzel, the lead vocalist, and John Sprawl, the bass player. Myself, I came in and they had their thing already going and then later on we added Mark Keddle on drums."

****How many originals have you guys completed since then?**

"When we started out, they were doing copy tunes. I came in and said, 'Why don't we make some of our own music?' So, that's what we did. We've been writing a bunch of tunes that we'll be 'demo-ing' before too long in the studio. I'd say we got about six tunes and we're working on three more. We'll always be adding new material."

****Would you like to go for a mini-LP to start off with? Or are you looking at a full project down the road?**

"We're going to be 'demo-ing' this before December and hope to have a full-length LP sometime early in '87."

****You guys are obviously supported by your friends here at the church and a pastor. Out of these concerts that you've done, what kind of results have happened? Have you seen people change their lives through the message?**

"A few. Most of the kids that we've played to so far have been, like, in a church or places where most of the kids coming are already in youth groups and are already believers. So, for them, we encourage them to grow and try to give 'em a good biblical foundation to build their lives on. They've got to know that the Bible is true, that it doesn't have any errors. They have to know things like that, cause there's a lot of wolves running around in sheep's clothing right now that are trying to dice and slice it. That's just not the way it is, sorry. It's just not that way. They gotta have a firm foundation to stand on. I think that, if they can see us up there—you know, we don't all wear the three-piece suits and we're not clones. It just shows them that 'Hey! I can be myself and still be a Christian.' I've seen people grow and there's been some decisions made along the way to accept Christ."

****How are you guys open, as far as ministry? Do you see you guys maybe going into a real secular area of music, say, like hittin' the bar scene; or do you think it'll be 50-50 kind of thing? What's your viewpoint on that?**

"I think, that as the band grows in terms of following, musical and spiritual growth, I think the Lord will bring the people to our concerts, that He wants to be there. 'Cause I have seen Christian bands go into bars and, from what I've seen of it, it doesn't work. That's just what I've seen and I think that the smart thing to do is to do the concert on God's turf. I think that it's the responsibility of the kids from the youth groups that come. They're presenting a witness to their friends by bringing them and we'll present the gospel, but then they're gonna turn to their friend and go, 'Well, how do I get right with God?' So, I think we all kinda have to work together. I think that God is gonna bring

the metalheads. I think He'll get 'em in there. I saw a few tonight."

****Let's go back to the past a little bit here. Can you tell me how you found the Lord?**

"Well, I found the Lord when I was reading Hal Lindsey's Late Great Planet Earth. I wasn't sure whether or not I was going to heaven. I got to the point in the book where it said, 'Make sure—Right now,' so I did. I always knew the Bible was a true book. Now it's inside of me."

****What do you foresee as White Cross's future? Goin' all the way with this?**

"Yeah, like, catch us on our world tour next week, okay? I don't know. We'll have Van Halen open for us. (Laughter) But seriously, we'll be working on our demo before the end of '86. We're gonna see what we can get record-wise. Hopefully, if some things we're working on right now pan out, then we'll be expanding our live itinerary. I'll just go with it as far as God takes it. Who knows? I don't know."

****Is there any music of yours that you'd make available at this time?**

"No. We have some demos that we've done that are not for public consumption. They're strictly for people in the recording industry to hear."

****Okay, so people that are reading this interview can just look forward for a demo or an album in the future, huh?**

"Well, I don't want to put my foot in my mouth, but I feel pretty confident. We've been talking to a major Christian label who's extremely interested in the band and we're very, very close to getting a deal. So, I'm optimistic about having a record available in early '87."

****What do you think of the whole trend of the Christian rock bands, especially the metal bands—how they're coming out nowadays. I know there's a lot of 'em that are really getting exposure. How do you feel about that in general?**

"I think it's about time. I think that Christian musicians...I've detected this attitude all along of: 'Well, I'm not as good as the secular bands, but so what—it's for God.' So, you get all these crummy Christian bands. So naturally, the Christian music scene hasn't gotten any respect, cause the players just aren't that good. The players are starting to realize, 'Hey! You know, God deserves your best—nothing less.' I think that, before you think that you're called into a music ministry, I think you have to be brutally honest and ask yourself, 'Do I have talent from God? Has He given me a talent for music? Has He really called me?' I'm not saying that our band is great or anything, but, if your heart's in the right place and you really feel God has called you into that, He can use it—as long as you let Him have the reigns. I think it's a healthy thing for Christian music in general to catch up to the times, so to speak. I think God can and does use all kinds of music."

****One last thing here: What are the needs for your band right now? Like prayer-wise, what kind of things do you need?**

"We need money. We need P.A. We need road crew. We need light show. Ha-ha. You name it, we need it."

****So, prayer for just about everything, huh?**

"More gigs too. We need more opportunities to present the gospel, because I think that we're effective with the gospel."

That's what we're all about. If I wanted to just play guitar, I'd just play in a band; but I'm in this band because God wants us to give the gospel."

Late breaking news! Pure Metal Records just signed White Cross to a two-album contract. "We think they're gonna burn a lot of people's ears," says Gavin Morkel, Vice President of Marketing and Development.

Metal Tracks cont'd

Exodus. Apparently, Paul Bayloff of Exodus has not become a Christian. Vicki Ponikvar writes in and tells us that Paul's behavior has not shown any change of direction in his life (partyin', etc.). Pray for Paul.

Stryper. This is the first issue since Vol. I, #2 that doesn't have a "Strype Hype" column! Stryper has made it on another metal compilation album. This one is on PRI Records and is called **SLAVE TO THE METAL**. Praise God that there's some light on an album with a terrible title like that! **SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND** (the same version as the album) is featured here, alongside Twisted Sister, WASP, Scorpions, Dio, Judas Priest, Yngwie, Helix, Queensryche and Accept.

Guess who Timmy's influences are on bass? I asked him and he said, "Jeff Berlin, Dee Murray, Geddy Lee and, of course, John Paul Jones." I know you wanted to know that.

What does the older generation say about Stryper? Mrs. B, who Michael said, "hello" to during a concert in Pasadena, TX last March, said she enjoyed the show. She said it was her first one, but she would come back. "More people ought to come and see what goes on here. I think if they saw it, they wouldn't be so against it."

CALLING ON YOU has been receiving airplay on MIV. During the Dial MIV requests, Stryper has consistently hit the #2 spot. People are starting to sit up and take notice in a big way. The video is hot. It shows a larger than life stage with a huge triangle-shaped logo of the band, which lights up with Isaiah 53:5 at the end of the song.

Sword lists their reasons for breaking up as: "having too many other important commitments (college, career, family) to give their ministry the time it deserves.

Stryken has been gaining publicity since the challenge to WASP and Crue. They've been interviewed in the New Age Journal as a result. Their **FIRST STRIKE** tape should now be reaching those who've ordered it. Ezekiel Vade, my "Moon Pie-eating buddy" has played me the unmixed version and it's hot. These boys have done their homework and have improved greatly since their well-received single last year. **CRUSH THE HEAD OF SATAN** is destined to be another great anthem for us all to shout at Satan and all the powers in the heavenlies. The showstopper of the tape has been my favorite song of theirs since I saw 'em last year—**THE ANSWER**. It's a metal-ballad that tells it like it is. **ROCK ON** is re-mixed here and five other tunes have been added. This album will not disappoint. The young men have a vision and their music presents it with force.

The first 1,000 copies have sold out. If you'd like to order one, write Stryken @ PO Box 2107, Cedar Park TX 78613.

The Christian Music Directory. Here's a comprehensive, up-to-date guide to the Christian music industry. If you're in a band, a songwriter, a radio programmer, a booking agent, a recording engineer or play any role in Christian music, you're gonna love this directory. It lists record labels, music publishers, record producers, film and video companies, Christian tv and radio stations, artist managers, booking agents, artists, radio programmers, recording studios, print music publishers and more.

Since there is no charge for inclusion in the directory, they have been able to round up over 358 companies for this edition. This invaluable tool can be yours for \$24.95. Send check or money order to: The James Lloyd Group, Box 3, Ashland, OR 97520.

Eternal Ryte Merchandise! If you'd like to order any of the following articles, add \$2 for handling and send check or money order to: Eternal Ryte, PO Box 3613, San Dimas CA 91773.

T-shirt—\$8; Jersey—\$10; Logo bumper sticker—\$1; 8x10 B&W photo—\$2; Four-song Demo Tape—\$6.

Gary O'Hara Band has released a single called **DIRTY MONEY**. It is good ole rock 'n' roll in the mid-western sense. It's kind of like a cross between any of Billy Joel's or Carmen's most rocky tunes. The flipside, titled **CALL ME TROUBLEMAKER**, has even more of that good ole' r&r sound, with honky tonk pianos crashing in here and there. Jimmy might like this one. There's a real cool sax solo on this song, which seems to be about Satan tempting the Christian rocker. The story twists at the end when Satan gets shocked that the musician is using r&r against him now.

The musician sings, "So don't tell me 'bout your r&r/ We got the music without losing our souls/ It's in your eyes, you look surprised at the change/ Now there's a couple of things that we are gonna rearrange."

Gary's band is currently being represented by Rez's manager. Hopes are that a record deal is on the way. If you're interested, write Gary @ Crucible Records, Box 2921, Des Plaines IL 60017.

ABORTION IS MURDER! Help stop it by putting pro-life bumper stickers on your car. Some of 'em are pretty radical. You can order some from Heritage House '76, Box 730, Taylor AZ 85939.

Sonic Praise is a Christian hard rock/ heavy metal band on the rise in the Youngstown/ Warren, Ohio area. The band has been together over a year and are reaching the lost with their Holy Spirit inspired songs.

Bruce Harapcio, a friend of the band, tells us a little bit about 'em: "Every member of the group is very talented with the instrument that God has called them to play. And boy can these guys shatter eardrums!

"The most important thing with Sonic Praise is that it's either all of Jesus or none of Jesus in every aspect of their ministry."

When they're not playing, they're found with an on-fire street witnessing team called "Sons Of Thunder." They hit the streets of Northeast Ohio and lead people to the Lord.

Cont'd on page 15



ONE BAD PIG—Jerry Falwell's revenge, or Johnny Rotten's nightmare?

You may have heard a lot about One Bad Pig lately. They were the surprise highlight of last year's Cornerstone Festival. They are opening up for Bloodgood here in Austin on March 9th. I'd call that 'the Heaven's Metal seal of approval' for sure.

Kosher and Paul Q-Pek, the vocalist and guitarist, respectively, of the band, are good friends and close brothers in the Lord of mine. I've seen Kosher go from screaming song lyrics out the window of his VW bug to singing in the bathroom to record some raw punk on a ghetto blaster. I've seen Paul play in numerous bands in Austin. The first of which was Pavillion, which featured flashpots and Roman Candles that bounced off the ceiling in a local church's sanctuary.

Since their sound is so aggressive, I thought an interview with guitarist Paul Q-Pek was in order. Besides, everyone's only interviewed Kosher. I thought you might want to hear from another member of the band, the one who gives Pig their metallic bite.

****Why would the Heaven's Metal reader get into One Bad Pig's album?**

"Well, not every Heaven's Metal reader would get into it, but I think probably most of them would, because they appreciate, you know, good, driving, distorted guitar and that's what's on the Pig album. They'll probably get into the album, especially if they like any of the speed or thrash-type metal that is out today, like Metallica, Slayer, Anthrax, Megadeth and Raven.

I do the musical writing for the band, and I never wrote punk music before. I don't really know how it's supposed to go. I've listened to a lot of heavy metal and also I used to be in a band in California called Frontrunner, which was a Christian heavy metal band. I did most of the musical and lyrical writing for that band. So, I've just taken a lot of the heavy metal and rock hooks, you know, that I know and chord progressions and just basically speeded 'em up. So, I think most of your readers would get into the album. I really do. I like it. I think it sounds great."

****Wanna talk a little technical about some of these songs? How about BLOW AND GO?**

"It was real darn technical (Ha, ha). **BLOW AND GO** has got about the most heavy metal sounding opening, as far as the first four chords just being sustained. It's probably one of the slowest tunes on the album, besides the ballad **MAKE ME BURN**. It's pretty much a straight-ahead, pop metal song. It

doesn't really sound like a punk song. It's a good sing-along or shout-along or scream-along type of song.

"A lot of the punk today is just 'anti-music,' kind of. It's not real musical. Most of the Pig stuff is pretty listenable music-wise and progression-wise, because that's how I write. When I get to a certain chord, I obviously want to go to the next chord and just follow a logical progression. Every once in a while I'll throw in some surprises. There's a lot of surprises on the album and unexpected things, but for the most part, there's a lot of good hooks on there and something you could really grab onto. It's good, melodic, uh, punk."

****What about ANARCHY IS PRISON?**

"That's about the most metal-sounding thing on there, I would presume. It's very fast, very speed, thrashy. Even the style I play on the song and the different chord progressions just have 'heavy metal' written all over 'em. We do it so fast and the way that we shout out the lyrics, that it's really thrashy and almost punky."

****I got a question about the secular people that come to see your concerts, like the punks. What's their reaction? I know a lot of 'em, I figure, are into just the total anti-music. How do they cope with your melodic stuff?**

"For as many different people as there are at the show, there's that many different reactions to the music. First of all, the lyrics are very, very up-front. By the first or second song, everybody in the whole place knows that we're a Christian band. It doesn't matter how wierd we are, they still know. It's just right there in their face. We want it that way. We do it to provoke a reaction. Sometimes, when we play in a secular club, they'll chant out things like, 'Satan rules and Jesus sucks,' and things like that, to try and get us to retort back at them. They want to react to something, somehow.

"Our first secular show that we did, we were scared to death. We went up there and played and the punks really started in on us. You know, with cussing out Jesus and twisting our lyrics around. After we'd sing a song, like **ANARCHY IS PRISON**: 'Jesus will set you free.' They'd go, 'Satan will set you free. Satan is God, blah, blah, blah.' Most of 'em didn't really believe it, you know? They were just playin' around. They thought it was hilarious. They just wanted to say some hilarious things.

"After the show we got to talk to a lot of 'em and they were all quieted down and talking to us one on one. Most of 'em really liked what we did. They said, 'Oh, it was really neat. It was different, but we loved it. We loved the music.' A lot of 'em started saying things like, 'Well, you know, I used to be a Catholic,' and things like that. So, there's definitely some searching people and people out there that are open to what we're doing. We're looking for those few in the crowd who are gonna be really receptive to what we do. We've only gotten one 'hate-letter' in the mail, or one really bad, bad comment for the band. That was from a girl from Pennsylvania. She'd never even heard the band. She just read an article about us in Cornerstone. She is, or used to be, a punk. She hated religion and she hated anything to do with Jesus and was totally down on that. She had tried every single 'punk-type' scene. You know, anti-war, anti-peace, nazi and whatever you could do. Her letter was filled with cussing. Curse language all over it.

We didn't know how to answer. She said, 'Write me back if you dare, you pigs!...and send me an album, but don't give me any of this religion stuff.'

'We're still praying how to answer that. We got that a couple of weeks ago. We don't want to turn her off to Jesus. That's the main thing, is to lift up Jesus. We don't care if she likes One Bad Pig or likes punk rock music or doesn't like punk rock. That's not the ultimate point. We don't want to drive anybody away from the fact that we're trying to lift Jesus up with what we do.'

****What's it like making the change from playing guitar for Pig and your own band?**

'Well, assuming that your readers know that I play in another band, called The Paul Q-Pek Band. I think variety in what you play and trying out different styles can never hurt you. Unless you're just, you know, pig-headed (oink, oink). Unless you're just totally stuck in a rut or stuck in one style and that's all you want to do and you don't care about anything else. A lot of the heavy metal greats, secular and Christian, used to study classical-type music. You can see how that influences them, or a lot of 'em are into jazz and you can see how that influences a lot of their lead riffs and progressions. Some of 'em just plain know how to write a good pop song. A lot of the metal out: Ratt; Bon Jovi and some of the new Stryper stuff is just good, straight-ahead, listenable music. It's not always what we consider heavy metal.

'Metal is such a wide area. I don't think it's real limited. As long as people don't limit it. People go, 'Oh metal—it's all stereotyped and it all sounds the same.' Then their band goes out and they sound the same. I think people should go ahead and experiment. One Bad Pig isn't really a metal band, but we're not really a punk band either. We don't call ourselves a punk band. I just think people need to experiment. The more influences they have, the better.

'When I'm playing with The Paul Q-Pek Band, you know, I play that type of modern 80's, pop rock or classical rock or whatever. When I'm with the Pig, I just thrash out and make it real simple. I enjoy both. But I'm a wierd guy, so that explains it.'

****Tell me about the Q-Pek band. Describe your influences with your band more in-depth.**

'Oh wow. Well, I have influences everywhere, but, of late, I've really been influenced by a band called Tears For Fears. I know they're a secular band and everything, but I went to see 'em in concert and really enjoyed the way they played their music. It was so unordinary, 'unstraight-ahead,' yet it still had some things that tied it all together. The audience was not out there just bopping away. They were kinda looking up on stage and listening to what was going on, like a real concert—instead of just a party. That's what I wanted the Q-Pek Band to be, since we're really trying to communicate something. Communicate the truth about Jesus in various different ways. With the lyrics I was coming up with, I just couldn't put a nonchalant, party-bop beat to 'em, whatever—something that the lyrics would just pass right by 'em and wouldn't impact 'em. So, I started creating a lot of the music around the lyrics to make sure that the message got through.

"A song like **WARHEAD** is an example, which was actually a song we used to do with Frontrunner. We used to do that song with all guitars and no keyboards. Now we have keyboards, so it sounds a little different, yet still pretty crunchy and pretty metally. The song just talks about the fact that there may be a nuclear war. Everybody's building up warheads. But we're not to fear that nuclear war, because, if it happens, our soul is still gonna be alive. Will it be living in eternal death in hell, or will we have eternal life with God? The real issue down on earth shouldn't be nuclear war, star wars, peace or anything like that—although those are all commendable goals to strive for—you know, war-free society and all this. The real issue: God told us not to fear the thing that could kill the body, 'cause that's not the real essence of what eternity is about. The real essence is: you need to fear the One who can take away both body and soul and that's Jesus Christ. The song is really pointing to Him, that there won't be a tomorrow without Jesus, the Son of God. It's kind of a hidden song. People may take it a wrong way and think that we're anti-nuclear war or pro-nuclear war, but that's not the point of the song. The whole point of it is that a decision needs to be made for Jesus Christ, because there may come a time when world-wide disaster happens. If it does, what's the next step?"

****Didn't you teach yourself how to play guitar, Paul?**

'I've never had any guitar lessons. In fact, I wasn't gonna be a guitarist in life. It just kinda turned out that way. I took piano when I was six and trumpet in high school. I was interested in drums. I was always playing drums. Last, but not least, finally came along guitar—when I was 15 and pretty set in my musical ways.

'My older sister, Patricia, who had played this classical guitar for years, was buying an acoustic guitar and so she gave me her old classical guitar. I wondered what I was gonna do with it, so I learned a couple of open chords and finally the day came when I discovered bar chords. Boy, it was all heaven after that. Anyway, I got an acoustic guitar and electric guitar and bought a bass guitar and all that type of stuff.

'My musical decisions were still kind of frenzied. When I moved here to Austin, I sold all of my guitar equipment, every single bit of it. I was gonna buy a drumset, because I thought I was gonna be a drummer. That didn't happen and so now, even as we speak, I don't have an electric guitar. The one I play for the Pig and The Paul Q-Pek Band is the same. I borrow it from a guy named Kevin, who used to play bass for the Pig. That guitar is the only guitar used on the Pig album. It's an Aria Pro II. Plays great. Isn't that wild? I'm on an album playing guitar and I play guitar in two groups, that play pretty frequently, and don't own my own guitar." (Paul acquired a Pig-pink guitar after this interview.)

If you'd like to pick up their popular album, send \$6 to: One Bad Headbangin' Pig, 4900 Beverly Skyline, Austin TX 78731.

Gideon's Army

The Lord's really blessed again. I was writing a Gideon's Army piece and this article came in the mail. The result here is a combination of Dean Ridings' well-written article and a few quotes and stats I got from a phone interview I'd previously done with band member Mark Greves.

The Great Commission and Christian Rock

By Dean Ridings

It's a unique way of fulfilling the Great Commission—to carry the Gospel message to all people. But Gideon's Army, a contemporary Christian "rock 'n' roll" band, says it's quite effective in reaching the lost behind bars.

The scene is the multi-security correctional Training Facility, better known as Soledad Prison, in California. A large gathering of inmates, escorted by prison guards, flocks to the show on the exercise field.

On hand is Gideon's Army—the band some of the inmates "grew up with," (recalling the group's "missionary" trips to prisons dating back to the early 1970's). Joining the Army is a motorcycle show, sporting the best "bikes" of all time.

"What this does is it breaks through the cultural barriers," says Mark Greves, who plays bass and sings lead on several songs for the group. "The guys who are into bikes are going to come, and they'll hear the Gospel. And the guys who are into music are going to come, and they'll hear the Gospel."

The motorcycles have the spotlight first. They circle the field, as a commentator tells the eager crowd all about them. And then Gideon's Army takes center stage to perform for an hour. The Gospel message could not be presented any clearer: The lyrics are decidedly Christian, and the testimonies between songs are evangelistic.

"Our music would probably offend a lot of people if played in their churches," says Greves. "But we don't play there. We go where God has built us up to go."

Gideon's Army takes the Gospel message into prisons and youth detention centers in California and Nevada. The band performs on the outside as well. It has shared the bill with such well-known names as Sweet Comfort, DeGarmo & Key, and the Rez Band.

Yet Gideon's Army is most comfortable performing for people who may not already be Christians. That's why the band goes into jails and prisons, as well as place like San Francisco's Union Square to give open concerts.

"There's no deception with this band," says Jerry Anderson, who along with Greves, formed Gideon's Army in 1974. "Wherever we play, we're honest: We play rock 'n' roll music with Christian lyrics." Greves and Anderson write and sing most of the group's songs, and Anderson provides the driving rock beat on drums.

"We have to use our time wisely," continues Anderson. "We'd rather spend time doing a concert on a large scale where a lot of unsaved people will be, or going to prisons and youth centers where other bands aren't able to go. Gideon's Army's evangelistic."

The band takes its name from the Old Testament's Gideon, a man who was selected by God to lead a small army into a battle that, without God's help, could never have been won. "There are just a few of us going into prisons," Greves says, "and there are thousands of inmates."

"If you play clubs, you get a following. We've got a following in prison. We go there and people yell out requests and stuff. We've been going 10 years and some of the guys in there got to know us. We get to be real with 'em. That's the greatest satisfaction. We have follow-up people that go in and have Bible studies every week. That's what keeps us there. The music's not what keeps us together."

Gideon's Army includes Greves, Anderson, Dave Angeles on lead guitar, and Doug Naruo on keyboards. Ron Davis, who engineered and co-produced the band's latest album, **WARRIORS OF LOVE**, also sings on the album. Tom Long is Gideon's Army's sound engineer at concerts.

WARRIORS, which follows Gideon's Army's first album, **ROCK 'N' ROLL FOR YOUR SOUL**, is currently number 18 on the national Christian music chart. Not only are the songs on the album evangelistic, they challenge Christians to live their lives for the glory of God as well.

"Of course, we're excited about the album's success," says Anderson. "But if we reached twenty people for the Lord, it's all worth it."

"Through the albums," says Greves, "the message reaches places we'll never see. That makes them a valid, natural extension of our ministry." Anderson and Greves hope Gideon's Army will release a new album each year.

But the group's primary focus is on doing its part to fulfill the Great Commission—reaching the lost who live behind literal or figurative bars. "The bottom line," says Greves, "is to reach people with the Gospel message of salvation in their cells or in their homes."

Their style is varied, catering to a wide audience. The album cover features a photo of Dave Angeles' flying V, which conjures images of a Michael Schenker/ screaming metal sound. Gideon's Army is more reminiscent of Foreigner or Petra at times.

"We have kind of a moody sound," says Mark. "We really enjoy doing songs like **VIDEO**, you know, progressive-type stuff. The keys are a real mainstay in the group."

VIDEO is a creative portrayal of the great judgement and the fact that everything that an unsaved person's done will be revealed. All that a person's done is being recorded on video with God's camera, so to speak.

Not strangers to metal, they share a practice studio with Adam Alvarez and his band—Valor. Their metal roots, which total 77 years collectively, go back to blues and rock 'n' roll.

The band has some plans that we can be praying over: "None of us need revenue from the LP," says Mark. "Lord willing, if it catches hold, we'll be able to do some stuff with other bands here in the Bay area."

The guys in Gideon's Army humbly lend their experience to the new local bands. "Some of the young guys have been together nine months," says Mark, "and they really have their hearts set on getting a record deal. If that's the goal, it's not gonna last. The goal needs to be God's will and His

glory."

They helped start the Bay Area Christian Music Association (BACMA) a few years ago, bringing about 100 musicians without bands together. "It's kinda petered out," admits Mark, "but we hope to get that going strong again. Our goal is to help here in this area, not necessarily branch out. For instance, there's not even a Christian radio station in the Bay area. One of our long range goals is to get one here."

A prayer request Mark gave us is to lift up their prison gigs. "Satan is always trying to close the doors on the prison thing. For example, the Christmas concert was cancelled. That's always a prayer for us—that the Lord would keep doors open for us."

For more information on **ROCK 'N' ROLL FOR YOUR SOUL** (Good, Deep Purple-like mid-70's hard rock) and **WARRIORS OF LOVE**, contact A & R Records @ (415) 276-3631. A & R plans on doing a compilation album that Gideon's Army will probably be on.

Metal Tracks cont'd

Holy Right plays on "Heaven and Hell" bill at LA clubs!

The clubs there have been putting Christian and satanic metal bands on the same bill for special "Heaven and Hell" nights. Awesome Huh? Look for more news from this band with one rockin' album available through Oasis Mail Order Service. Wanna order one? Write Oasis @ 7737 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood CA 90046.

Dale Thompson's band, **Bride**, is called "Bride." It's not "The Bride," just Bride. Got it? Their new drummer is Tim Morrow.

"We call him 'Tomorrow,' for short," says Dale, "but he's still a little taller than I am."

In an interview in Rizzen Roxx, Dale tells us one of the primary goals for Bride this year: "To search for and find Noah's Ark." Christian metal is reaching new heights each day. Bride is well on their way already. Just the other day I saw that they had two of their own magazines by the checkout stand: Bride's and Modern Bride. **SHOW NO MERCY** is due out now.

Roxalt is working on some new material, which is changing the band's sound. Special thanks go to Raymond Ronzoni, ex-TNK guitarist, who has teamed up with Roxalt. This new sound is hot! It pushes Roxalt into the realm of heavy metal, rather than the hard rock label their music fit into earlier. Look for a demo in the near future!

Speaking of prisons, in Vol. II, Issue #1, there was an opportunity printed to give William Metzger a Walkman and metal tapes. Your response has really blessed him! He received two and gave one to the prison chapel. He wrote a letter of support to Pure Metal and received 5 free tapes! (He had been praying for God to get him some music.) Quite a few of the as yet unsaved people he knows have been borrowing his tapes and Walkman!

Recently William sang Messiah Prophet's **BATTLECRY** acapella in a chapel service. He said that, "Everyone was in awe when I was finished. All jaws dropped and there wasn't a sound. Each person in the room was spattered with feelings they've felt fighting for the Lord."

Bryan Sorens, another subscriber in prison, has had all his copies of Heaven's Metal, as well as The Activist and The Cutting Edge, screened and censored. Bryan asked me to write me a letter to the prison director and explain that Heaven's Metal wasn't a subversive, homosexual or pornographic publication. I did so and received a supportive reply from the prison chaplain. This apparently didn't help, for the last issue took the usual three months to reach Bryan. If you'd like to cry out against this censorship and interference, you can write the Director of the Texas Department of Corrections at Box 99, Huntsville TX 77340.

VESSEL is a Christian metal band from the Phoenix area. They are so impressive that Stryper is considering taking them along for their tour! Heaven's Metal will feature them soon.

Barren Cross promises to totally thrash out on one of their new songs: **CULTIC REGIME**. It will be on their upcoming album, tentatively titled **ATOMIC ARENA**.

EXODUS II - Rock to Reach

Exodus II, a five-member Christian rock band from Williamsport, PA, has a deep burden for the lost and hurting people, especially the youth. The name "Exodus II" stands for the second departure of God's Children through music.

Their music has a stainless-steel sound which pleases your average headbanger, and the music—while rocky—promotes excellent lyrics which tell the simple truth about Jesus just as it is. It deals with some of today's problems, such as: peer pressure; suicide; and abortion.

Exodus II is active in pro-life work and has a booth at every concert which exposes abortion for the murder it is. They offer pro-life materials, stickers, and refer any troubled girls to a nearby pro-life crisis pregnancy center for further help.

The band, through song, has ministered in a variety of different places that many people have overlooked, such as: mental health hospitals; state institutions; and more.

They have played on the streets, at rock music festivals, at Christian skating parties—to benefit third world hungry children. They play such powerful cuts as: **CHOOSE LIFE**; **TOP ROCK**; **BELIEVE IT**; and more.

The group's lineup consists of: Bryan Davis—synthesizers, lead and backup vocals; Stu Hague—bass; Steve Klopp—rhythm guitar, lead and backup vocals; Peter Noble—drums; and Greg Snyder—lead guitar, backup vocals.

Over the years, Exodus II has had the opportunity and privilege to play with such big names as: Rick Cua; Bash-n-the-Code; Messiah Prophet and more. These righteous rockers have released a five-song demo cassette which is now being played on numerous Christian rock stations in Pennsylvania. Shortly, they will be returning once again to the studio to record a hot new album. For more information, bookings, shirts, tapes, etc. please contact: Exodus II, PO Box 339, Muncy, PA 17756. Their demo is \$4, plus \$1 for shipping. Their photo is \$1. Stay tuned...

MESSIAH PROPHET

Messiah Prophet was nice enough to supply the press with explanations of the songs on **MASTER OF THE METAL**. All of the songs, except **THE FRIEND**, were written by Andy Strauss.

"The basic idea behind **MASTER OF THE METAL**," says Andy, "is to express that even though we may look a little strange and we play our music loud, we have purpose behind what we do. The first verse deals with that very idea. The second verse directs the message to the non-believer in trying to show them that Jesus is Lord of all, including music (especially metal music). The message is completed by bringing the two together—yes, we look weird, but the kids who need to hear the gospel are hearing it through our music. I hope that Christians and non-Christians alike can see themselves in this song and realize who Jesus is. I got the idea for writing this song from a radio interview that another member did on the air. He mentioned that Jesus was Master of the Metal, and I knew there was a song in that phrase. I sat down and let the Lord speak.

"I wrote **HEAVY METAL THUNDER** while feeling kind of depressed about some unsaved friends and family. I thought, 'Man, God's Word shakes this world like thunder! Why can't they hear it?' As I thought about our ministry and the thunder of God's Word, I developed the idea for **HEAVY METAL THUNDER**. This song is basically directed toward the unsaved, asking them the question, 'Who are you going to choose?' This is really the bottom line for any ministry—showing and telling people the gospel and then asking them to decide between Satan and Jesus. People have got to make a choice.

"**HIT AND RUN** had a couple different factors behind it. As I thought about some Christian firends who had been dealt some bad hands and then fell away from the Lord, I felt a real need to write a song of encouragement. I had the lyrics written at the time of the recording, but I never really liked the bridge. We kept putting off the recording of the lead vocal track because of this and then something happened in my personal life that prompted me to write the new bridge lyric. I knew it was God's timing for these lyrics. As Paul said about the life of a believer, it is a race that must be run with perseverance. It can't be run when you're nursing wounds dealt by blows from the enemy. That is what this song is trying to convey.

"I wrote **BATTLE CRY** when I was going to college. It was prompted by a few different things. I had had a bad experience with a Christian relationship and I was really angry at the way that Satan had distorted love into hate. I felt hurt and alone, but I knew that I needed to keep trying with a new battle cry from God. Sometimes it is so easy for us to give up on trying to love others and that is when we need to allow God to love through us. **BATTLE CRY** is simply a song to show people that we know where they're coming from. Hurt and pain are terrible to experience, but giving them over to God gives us a renewed spirit and a renewed battle cry.

VOICE THAT'S CALLING basically ties the whole album together. We relate to the listener by saying that we know what it is like to feel love leave you and lust climb inside of you. We also know that Jesus is the name above all names

and that at His name every knee will bend and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. We hope that people will listen to the verses, hear the voice of the Lord calling to them and join with us in surrendering all to Jesus in this praise song to Him. 'I will have no Gods before You!'"

FEAR NO EVIL. "After watching a horror movie on television one night, I started thinking about people who watch them and become really scared by them. I started thinking about other things that scare people and God impressed upon my heart to write this song. We don't need to allow evil to scare us if we have Jesus in our hearts. Satan has to flee at the name of Jesus. I tried to graphically illustrate fear of evil and to show people that they need not fear it. The blood of the lamb covers all things and we need to call upon Jesus in this front line war. The message of **FEAR NO EVIL** is as simple as its title."

FOR WHOM DOES THE BELL TOLL. "I needed to write a ballad for the album and I wanted it to somehow relate to **FEAR NO EVIL**. As I thought about Psalm 23, where the term is taken from, I heard a church bell ring and God gave me the title for the song. So much has been said of Psalm 23, which is the main lyric of the tune, that I am at a loss elaborating further on it. Psalm 23 is probably the most memorized passage in the Bible. Hopefully, it means as much to our listeners as it does to me."

David "Thunder" Armstrong, the solid drummer for the group, wrote the killer tune **THE FRIEND**. "Lyrically," says David, "I tried to be self-explanatory and still have a slight abstract thought pattern. The first verse primarily states the present situation—each man looking out for himself, not helping out his brother, looking for personal possessions and a love and joy that is only found in Jesus. The second verse explains the circumstances of selfish greed brought about by bold steps into avenues of wealth, power and self-acclaim without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The third verse is the ultimate penalty for not making a decision for the Lord. Too many songs end with a peaches and cream finale, and I felt led to tell people to look at the reality. Although it would be nice for all of us to go to heaven, there are some people who stubbornly will not accept the truth. They think they are having too much fun without the Lord or they think they still have plenty of time. However, when the alarm clock of Gabriel's trumpet sounds, it will be too late and the stark reality of eternal death will be upon those left behind. The chorus simply states that the answer to all things covered in the verses is to simply grab hold of Jesus, the friend of all mankind."

Makes you wanna listen to the album more closely, doesn't it?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN HEAVEN'S METAL? (Or know someone who does?) Write me for cheap ad rates. (I believe this is the road to a fancier and bigger magazine production.)

Inner Life

ROCKIN' THE FAITH

INNER LIFE

Inner Lite is another new Christian metal band in California that has been blessed with a record pressing. Oasis Mail Order has been selling Inner Lite's **ROCKIN' THE FAITH** very well for the past few months.

This tape has some good melodic, Stryper-style metal on it. There's some hot double leads here.

LIVE ETERNALLY is the first song on this 4-song tape. It has some blazing guitar leads. Shiro Nobunaga handles the first lead, which is a high-pitched trip up and down the neck with hammer-on and tremolo effect thrown in to dazzle.

The chorus here is anthem-like a la **CRUSH THE HEAD OF SATAN**.

OPEN YOUR EYES is the next song, which rips along at high speed. The rhythms are accented in a Robert Sweet-style cymbal dance. Billy Birkholz pleads, "Please turn to Jesus, your drugs just have no 'life.'"

The title track is a good ole' anthem that has some great acapella choruses and hefty drumming. "Like a caravan moving from town to town/ If you don't like Jesus you better not stick around/ Crank your power to ten, who cares what people say/ Rock It! Rock It! Rock It! For your faith."

PERFECT LOVE is the barn-burner here. This song definitely belongs in every headbanger's library. Both Shiro and Nick Powers tear it up on this one.

It starts off with some great notes that are destroyed by the slow motion of the vibrato bar. After this repeats a few times, a quick rhythm kicks in that puts energy into your heartbeat.

The rhythm section of drummer Chris Powers and bassist Dan Castro add the needed kick to drive the song home. It's a winner!

This young band, no member of which is over 18, rocks with enough good hooks and talented guitar work to attract a sizable following. These guys should just get better and better.

With their frequent gigging in secular clubs, these guys will quickly get all the experience they need to become a serious spiritual warfare team in the rock world. Chris is tentatively planning a trip to the Amazon jungle as a missionary leader, which will give him great insight into the ministry he's currently in.

Heaven's Metal will keep you posted on Inner Lite's progress and prayer needs.

X-TERRA

JOHN 15:19

X-TERRA

X-Terra is a Christian rock band/ ministry out of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. Forming in August of 1985, the band has played in various coffeehouses and parks. They spread the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ with a musical style reminiscent of early 70's hard rock bands such as Cream, Deep Purple, etc.

Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Anne Kachline on bass and vocals; Bob Kachline on drums; Clint Reed on rhythm guitar, keyboards and vocals; and Rob Callahan on lead guitar and vocals.

Rob left X-Terra in June, 1986 and is replaced on lead guitar and vocals by Bob Colombo.

X-Terra is yielded to go wherever the Lord sends to do as His instrument whatever God wants to do, for the glory of our Heavenly Father and the exaltation of the King of Kings: the Lord and Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

The band will be going into the studio in early 1987 to make a demo, which will be for sale upon completion.

The name X-Terra is derived from the Latin words "ex-terra," based on John 15:19—Jesus has called us "out of this world."

Anyone wishing bookings or further information may contact: X-Terra, c/o Bob Kachline, PO Box 2287, Wilkes Barre, PA 18703-2287. (717) 824-8403.

I've received a few letters asking me to do an article on myself, so you could learn a bit more about me. I didn't think I could bring myself to writing the article, so I asked a friend of mine to write one. It was fun being interviewed for once. Here's the article:

Doug Van Metal — Heaven's "Groupie"

By Lynn Miller

The strains of The Choir bleed through the walls as I knock on the door of apt. # 107—Doug Van Pelt's place, and the offices of Heaven's Metal. A nice-looking young man (gag!—Ed.) sweeps the door back with a flourish. "Welcome!" It's Van Pelt. He's not what you'd expect—that is if you were looking for a Christian version of Dee Snyder or something. He's dressed casually—a purple football jersey (number 81, leftover from his high school days), brown cords and scuffed tennies. The surprisingly conservative haircut and candid hazel eyes give one the impression that he should be on a tennis court somewhere in California, not in Austin, Texas writing about rock music. "I used to have long hair," he admits, "now I'm working and have to project a more professional-type image, but I'm still a long-hair at heart."

He leads me on a quick tour of the "offices," inviting me to examine his bathroom trash can. "You can learn a lot about a person that way," he says. I decline, noticing a cereal box crammed in on top. The tour ends up in the sparsely decorated living room, where he motions me to a seat and switches The Choir for Michael Gleason's instrumental album (presumably less distracting). I notice that the living room is mostly stereo, with tapes and albums lining the walls. A Commodore 64 computer occupies another portion. "I prefer to live modestly," he says. "Even if I make a lot of money someday, I'll still be driving the same car. That is, if it runs." He smiles, and you get the feeling that he means it.

The phone begins to ring. One call is an out-of-state reader who seems just to need a friend. Van Pelt speaks to her reassuringly for a few moments, eyeing me apologetically. Before he can switch on the answering machine, two more calls come in. The first is an old Chi-Alfa brother (A Christian fellowship on campus—Not a fraternity—Ed.) from his not-too-distant college days, whom he dismisses with a belch and a "Love ya, brother." The second is buddy Ezekiel Vade, bass guitarist for the group Stryken. He tosses the receiver to me. "Here, talk to him while I fix the machine."

"So you're interviewing Dougie, eh? quips "Ezey." "'e's like a brother to me, 'e is. I used to send his mother flowers."

All this commotion is too much for Snowball (aka Holiness), Van Pelt's 15-1/2 yr old white persian cat (see p. 11, Vol I, Issue #5 for photo reference), who jumps up into my lap and slobbers on my hand. "Would you like a towel?" Van Pelt asks politely. One thing that stands out about him is an amazing lack of pretense. He's what you might call "real."

Van Pelt is an Air Force "brat." He was born in Japan February 4, 1963, and since then has lived in Florida, Virginia, California, and finally Texas, where he graduated

from the Univ. of TX in 1986, a government major. "I didn't figure out that I wanted to write until my senior year," he says, "so I have a journalism minor." A metal fan since the first grade, his favorite groups back then were Led Zep and Deep Purple. He strayed from metal briefly and became a Top40 fan until late jr. high, when he returned to his "roots" with groups like Kiss, Aerosmith, Nugent, Sabbath and Van Halen—what he calls the "70's version" of heavy metal. "Once I was in high school I was pretty much locked into heavy metal only," he admits. "I hated disco and any other music that just wasn't loud guitars."

Heavy metal music for Van Pelt doesn't necessarily signify rebellion. He sees it as the natural progression of rock. "I guess I like it because of the energy and the power and emotion it evokes. It's an exciting music...almost like a sport. You can get into it and expend a lot of energy, and experience a lot of joy. I like to hear guitars sing." But the quality of the message, he stresses, is really just as important as the quality of the music. "It's food for the spirit—music with words in it. An analogy I use is this: If I got a brand new puppy—say a St. Bernard, a purebred—I wouldn't dig through the trash can and find leftover spaghetti to feed him. I'd go out and buy the best Alpo or Puppy Chow or whatever and nourish him correctly. When I was born again, my spirit came alive, and anything with a message in it is food for that spirit. I believe that secular music is trash for the spirit."

Van Pelt also sees a danger in paying more attention to music than to the Lord. "You have to definitely keep God first and always catch yourself when you find yourself being more carried along by music than the Lord's word."

Van Pelt's first exposure to Christian rock was at age 9, when he saw Larry Norman in Dallas. Music with searching lyrics, he says, has always intrigued him more than "just plain party lyrics." He first became a Christian in the 5th grade, but within about 6 mos. slipped back into the same rock & roll party lifestyle. "I had it all figured out," he says. "I was going to party hearty until '87 and then repent and get right with God before the rapture (which he had calculated would be in 1988—a generation after Israel became a nation). It was a lie of the devil." The Christmas before Van Pelt recommitted his life to the Lord, his father gave him five Christian rock albums, including Sweet Comfort Band, Kansas and Rez Band. "I was happy," he says. "I still considered myself a Christian." But he admits that they weren't very high on his playlist at the time.

When he finally came back to God, he felt the need to "give" the Lord his music. "It was hard at first. I wanted to hold onto my favorites, like Led Zep and the Scorpions. But when I let go of my music, God opened a whole new door for me. He exposed me to all different types of music, and He let me appreciate every style—Classical, Spanish guitar to New Wave. He didn't take music away from me and club me over the head with it and say 'Never listen to this again.'"

Van Pelt's favorite style of music is still heavy metal, however (His top five are Arkangel, Jimmy Hotz, AD, Jeff Johnson and Stryper). He sees Christian heavy metal as "just people going into a culture that hasn't heard the Gospel, and using that medium to present the Gospel." Back in 1984, he

saw a real need for someone to help make the heavy metal culture aware of these Christian bands—hence the birth of Heaven's Metal. "I got some good counsel from my campus pastor," he says. "And that was that one of the ways to disciple is by seeing a need and meeting it." Van Pelt seems to have been just the one to meet that need. An avid reader since high school of rock magazines like Circus and Creem, he was "a walking encyclopedia" of rock music. "When I became a Christian," he says humbly, "that interest just transferred over and I became an encyclopedia of Christian rock."

Although he has especially favorite parts of each successive issue of Heaven's Metal (the photos in Issue 1, the interview of Daniel Band and expose on the group Trouble in Issue 3, the Stryper extravaganza in Issue 6, etc), his overall favorite by far is the latest. Heaven's Metal has faced a long and at times rocky path of "evolution." "Darwin would be proud," he says, laughing.

Darwin would be even more proud if the vision that Van Pelt has for the newsletter comes to fruition. He wants it to become a full-fledged color magazine, distributed into the same stores that carry Creem and Circus. He believes that there really is a market for Christian heavy metal. "Some of the bands are getting rave reviews in some of the secular magazines because musically they're top-notch. They're not 'okay for Christians,' they're good, period."

But what about the message? Is it getting out along with the music?

"You can see actual life-changing events going on at concerts and through just the records getting out there. You can look back at the Jesus movement and see where following Jesus was a fad or an 'in' thing; there was a falling away once things got tough. There's some of that going on (in the Christian rock scene) just the same as it's going on with modern evangelical Christianity. As a whole, though, I see a lot of the band members out there being strong in the Lord—deep Christians—and that sort of input into the heavy metal culture is going to produce good fruit. It's gonna produce some long-lasting decisions."

Perhaps that is why Christian heavy metal has begun to be so successful. It's being written and performed by artists who are, for the most part, inspired not so much by just making groupies of rock and roll, but by making "groupies" of God. And Doug Van Pelt is one of them.

—Lynn Miller is a freelance writer and former heavy metal enthusiast living in Austin, TX. She's now more into the mainstream stuff, but still has an open mind. (I'll vouch for that. We were listening to Stryker's new tape full blast in her car the other day.—Ed.)

What are your picks for top five albums of 1986? Mine are: #1 **RECONSTRUCTIONS** by AD; #2 **ARMED AND DANGEROUS** by Matthew Ward; #3 **ROCK FOR THE KING** by You know who; #4 **BLOODGOOD** by ?; #5 **TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL** by ?

Honorable mentions go to: Messiah Prophet, for most-improved band; Trytan, for best demo!!!; Whiteheart's **DON'T WAIT FOR THE MOVIE**, for the "What's that screaming guitar doing on a Whiteheart album?" award.



RAPTURE

For those of you who are interested in getting ahold of Rapture's music (who isn't?) you can write them at: 3216 Britt N.E., Albuquerque NM 87111. They have buttons that say, "Rapture—Metal With A Message." They've also got t-shirts for sale. Write and support 'em.

BARREN CROSS LIVE! Want to read the shortest concert review in history? "The concert went really well," says Tina Parker. "The sound of the show was great and really loud! There were several headbanging songs that got the crowd going! The place went crazy when they sang **GIVE YOUR LIFE**. Everyone was cheering and headbanging.

Barren Cross is one group you should not miss! I'm sure you will not be disappointed!" Amen.

BATTLECRY — RED WHITE AND BLUE. Here's the shortest record review to boot: "This tape is excellent," says Cliff Powell, the editor of Headbanging—Jesus Style. "The musicainship is excellent, the songs are excellent. Lyrically it is very strong, very spiritual and evangelical! Awesome!

"But there are a few (minor) problems. There are a few poppy songs, and they don't quite hit it (**WHEN THE LORD COMES BACK, LIFE WITH THE LORD**). But mostly this tape is filled with great hooks that make you want to listen time and again. Also, on the live songs, the drums seem to be kind of 'Rat, tat, tat' sounding. Bad recording. Maybe the mikes were too far away. What can I say, though, besides: 'Get this tape.' It's really easy to get. Order it or something. The heavy songs are about as heavy as...Ratt."

You can write their record company for ordering info at: Greenworld Distribution, 20445 Gramercy Place, Torrance CA 90501. The cassette version features 4 extra live songs.

TRADING POST



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* **ALLIANCE DEMO.** For info on Alliance's demo, (Vol II, #3) send your address and phone # and they'll get back to you. It's high quality, production and music-wise. Write: Alliance, 8 Lake Dr, Round Rock TX 78664.

* **AN INCREDIBLE BAND** seeks powerful, emotional, melodic, Christian vocalist with image, dedication, lyrical ability and stage presence. Please send resume, tape and picture to: Morgan James Productions, PO Box 7000-123, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA 90274.

* **WANTED:** Information on the band **AUGUST 17** from Oklahoma City OK. Contact: Lyn Dalrymple, PSC West 2614, KAFB NM 87117.

* **EAST COAST AIRPLAY!** The Rock Foundation has been serving western North Carolina and east Tennessee on Saturday nights for over a year. If you would like your tape or record considered for broadcast, please send a copy to: The Rock Foundation, PO Box 4271, Hickory NC 28603. We will provide information to our listeners on how to obtain your recording when we play it! Thank You.

* **DEMO AND LIVE TAPES:** Want to sell 'em to me? I'll buy 'em. Matt Williams, PO Box 84, Sassamansville PA 19472. Want to trade 'em? Contact: Todd Carlson, 2858 172nd Ave. NW, Anoka MN 55304. & Mike Baxton, 2466 Co. Rd. I, Moundsview MN 55432.

* **WHITE THRONE** is an underground magazine covering Christian heavy metal. Lots of interviews, record reviews and info on unsigned bands with demos. \$2 per issue. Checks payable to: David Johnson. Send to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **CHRISTIAN BANDS** with records and demos out, listen up! The weekly Flaming Metal Death radio show heard on Saturday nights from 7 to 10pm on WKNH, 91.3 FM tries to emphasize the more positive side of heavy metal, including Christian metal bands like Barren Cross, Stryper, Tempest, etc., and bands looking for airplay are encouraged to send material to: Jon Johnson/ Flaming Metal Death/ WKNH, 91.3 FM/ Keene State College/ 229 Main St/ Keene NH 03431. WKNH also has a Sunday morning Christian music show called 'Keep Looking Up' that features Christian bands as well.

* **NORTH STAR PRODUCTION CO.** is looking to help and work with new Christian metal bands. For more info call: Bob @ (815) 485-3818.

* **WHITE METAL SHOW.** The 4th Edition is now available! Find out what all the excitement is about. Featuring: Soldier; Chariot; Valor; Crossforce. The cost is now \$2. Any checks payable to: Kevin Crothers, 25814 Booker Way, Hayward CA 94544. (This is an underground/ bootleg tape. The \$2 price strictly covers the cost of the tape and postage. Kevin is trying to get some of these unknown bands some exposure, not make a buck.)

* **RIZZEN ROXX** is a radical rag that promotes Jesus! Poetry, reviews, interviews, scripture & more. 6 issues = \$6. Send to: Judd Harper, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **YOUTH FOR CHRIST SEEKS DRUMMER!** A great ministry opportunity. Dan Harrold, the Executive Director of Kosciusko County's Youth For Christ, has taken on a metal band for special ministries. He has enlisted a talented guitarist and bassist, who are great singers too, and has a brand new sound system that will fill a 5,000 seat auditorium with mega-decibels and over 20 original songs. If you are a solid drummer who is being called to youth evangelism, or know someone who is, contact Dan Harrold @ (219) 269-1107. PO Box 1221, Warsaw IN 46580.

* **RADIO AIRPLAY!** WRST 90.3 FM has a show which is open to Christian music. For airplay, send recordings to: Jamie Lee Rake, 955 North Scott, Oshkosh WI 54901.

* **BANDS:** You can be placed on Record, on Radio and on Stage! Free brochure from Painter Associates, PO Box 1254, Mount Dora FL 32757.

* **RECORDS FOR SALE!** Heaven's Metal sells the following records for \$8.98 plus \$1 postage: **THE STRONGEST POWER** and **I SHALL CONQUER** by Leviticus; **MASTER OF THE METAL** by Messiah Prophet; **TIME'S END** by Saint; **BRIDE** by Bride; **RISE UP, RUN FROM THE DARKNESS** and **STRAIGHT AHEAD** by The Daniel Band; **LIVE IN THE USA** and **CAN'T STOP US NOW** by Jerusalem.

* **BACK ISSUES ARE NOW \$1 each.**

* **KOSHER RECORDS.** New address: 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436. For those hard-to-find imports like 100% Proof.

* **THE CUTTING EDGE** reviews more demos than a record company! 12 issues = \$9. Send to: Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **ROLL AWAY THE STONE** featured an interview with Barnabas when nobody knew what was happening with 'em! One year = \$2. Send to John Grassi, RD #2, Kempton PA 19529.

* **VORTEX** is a high-quality newspaper that covers eclectic to metal. Sample issue = \$2. 6-issue sub = \$6. Write: Vortexx, 12129 Genesee St. Alden NY 14004.



WEAR YOUR COLORS—Rick Cua. Sparrow Records.

"This one is gonna be the most honed-in rock album that I've done," said Rick Cua in Volume I, issue 6 of Heaven's Metal. "It's gonna be a real rocker."

Rick wasn't lying. This album tackles all the aggression that a band like Kiss could ever put out. **WEAR YOUR COLORS**, which you may have heard on your local Christian radio station by now, has a real rowdy bass line.

Rick uses a lot of the tools he's grown accustomed to: chorus shouts and heavy bass drumming, making this song a power-anthem. "When you walk the walk/ Remember who you are/ When you talk the talk/ You gotta show your heart."

FLEX is about the spiritual muscles that the Holy Spirit supplies us with as believers. This song really edifies the body: "Flex/ Use the power/ Flex/ You're not on your own/ Flex/ It's your hour/ The flesh is weak but the Spirit's strong."

When hymns were first introduced, about 1500 years ago, some of our brothers wanted to help the body of Christ remember the foundational doctrines easier. They decided to put theology to music. You know what? It worked. Thus was the creation of written sacred music. It was a Gregorian chant then, now it takes varied forms—like the rock chants/shouts of Rick Cua. Think about it. When you're repeating a phrase like "The flesh is weak but the Spirit's strong," you're reinforcing your beliefs and feeding your spirit the Word of God.

HUNGRY is a forceful rocker that portrays those emotions of dissatisfaction. Our spirit isn't satisfied unless it gets enough spiritual food—God's Word. Thus the chorus: "I am hungry/ Hungry for the Word."

LEME AT 'EM is another gut-level rocker that would make Kiss jealous and The Altar Boys proud. It's a song that shows the ferociousness of Jesus. Jesus is not a wimpy pacifist. He has triumphed over the devil and made a public display of him. He is mighty, to the tearing down of strongholds. "Your Words of Life are now/ All I can hear/ He said, 'Take Me to

what's hurting you/ And watch the shadows disappear./ Lemme at 'em/ I'll keep the demons from your soul/ Lemme at 'em/ I'll fight the criminal who stole your heart.'"

GOT THE ROCK is a real good boogie rocker. The lyrics offer an explanation of Rick's philosophies on using rock music to spread the good news. "We got the Rock/ We're on the roll/ There's a hunger deep inside our souls/ It's our time, don't look back/ Nobody's gonna talk us off the right track."

The synthesizer intro to **UNCHAINED** suggests that this song is going to be the one commercial song to get radio airplay for the album. Not so. Rick refused to put any of those type of songs on this album. The steel-stringed instruments steal away the pop sound of this song before it gets too far.

NIGHTFALL is a comforting song that lets us know that Jesus doesn't leave us—ever!

HATS OFF TO YOU is a pat-on-the-back to those who don't let their friends compromise their holiness, who refuse to become lukewarm in order to keep friendships. Hats off to ya! "Guitar loaded/ Ready and strong/ Electric wire/ Sing our song."

LINE OF FIRE ends the album by telling us that we can't run from God's love. He can find us anywhere. This song gives the most room for the guitars anywhere on the album. The jams here are never fully cut loose. They come in just enough to meet your electric guitar quota and then they back out.

If you want to hear Rick's band cut loose, go see him on tour. Each guitarist battles it out for best lead of the night and the drummer gets his double bass thumping loud enough to affect your heartbeat during his solo. Of course Rick jams out on the bass—showing why Spyro Gyra, the highly talented jazz group, offered him a job.

One reader, Jay Mindeman, wrote in and offered his review of the album. Jay says, "**WEAR YOUR COLORS** is simply fun to listen to. Cua has recruited some first class writers, including Bob Halligan Jr.—who wrote for Judas Priest and Blue Oyster Cult—and Dave Perkins, who also produced. Cua adds his touch and throws in some excellent studio musicians for a catchy rock sound hinting of heavy metal. Cua's voice, although having little range, is rich and fun to listen to.

"All these cuts contain superlative vocal harmonies and some of the catchiest hooks this side of Van Halen. The synthesizers and guitars blend well, cutting out riffs, melodies and solos that don't seem saturated.

"Even though Rick Cua rocks with little variety, he never stoops to mediocrity. **WEAR YOUR COLORS** is a triumph for Christian hard rock, proving that metal can be fun without being sugar coated."

Check out this album, it's Rick's hottest to date.

Subscribe? Renewal? One year's subscription (6 issues) is \$4. (Overseas \$8) Send to: Doug Van Pelt, 902 Romeria Dr. # 107, Austin, TX 78757.

Bulk Rate? If you'd like to order several copies, contact me one month in advance of the next issue and pay 50 cents per issue ordered.

Distribution? If you'd like to see Heaven's Metal sold in your local record store, inquire with the manager and then contact me.



JOHNSON ON JOHNSON

By Jeff Johnson

Douglas Van Pelt, the editor of Heaven's Metal has asked me to write a short article on "Why should the Heaven's Metal reader listen to Jeff Johnson?" I would much prefer a more 'non-biased' presentation of my music. I also think that artists when talking about their music can come off a little pretentious. On the other hand, my music is a little 'different' and some explanation about why I take the kind of approach that I do is probably in order.

"And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31a) As a musician writing from a Christian worldview, I find great inspiration and a true model of creativity in the Genesis account of God's creation of the universe. He brings form out of something that was without form, darkness becomes light, a void suddenly is teeming with an awesome diversity of life, beauty and spirit. Finally, creation is infused with an order that reflects its Creator and that which is true. Satisfied, God pronounces it all "very good."

Music written by Christians, whether they be composers of rock and roll or jazz music, should reflect form, light, diversity, life, beauty, truth—the total goodness of God's creation. Yet, sadly, we live in an age of increasing moral and cultural decay. The creation is becoming dark again and blind to the wonder and truth of its Creator. The Christian artist, if he is going to be relevant, must include this in his presentation. That's what I'm attempting to do in my own music: present men and women struggling between the reality of their fallen natures and the reality of God's grace.

While it's one thing to deliberately attempt to be different, it's another thing to be yourself. My music is definitely "different", but only because I like a diversity of musical styles and sounds, and incorporate them into my own productions. I accepted the fact long ago that my music isn't for everyone. It is "listening" music with many subtleties in the production and engineering. It's probably not the kind of thing that will lend itself to in-store play in most book and record shops (although, I have heard our albums played in stores and it makes for some very interesting conversations!). The music is modern to fit with the lyrical content which is also very modern.

Many of my lyrics are reflections of ideas in literature that I've read, or paintings that I've seen. I have been greatly influenced by Christian writers such as Charles Williams, C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Madeleine L'Engle and many others. I also have been inspired by the art of the Renaissance and the French Impressionists. Art often draws inspiration from art.

But my greatest inspiration continues to come from the writings of Scripture and its portrayal of life as it really is. Account after Biblical account shows how one must realize his own true dilemma before he can realize his need for God. The need for God's grace, joy and hope is meaningless unless one acknowledges the absence of it in his life. Thus, one reviewer described my music by saying that, "Jeff brings his listener to the edge of a cliff and then pushes him off". I'm comfortable with that description.

Finally, my albums are what one would call "concept albums". This means that there is a particular theme that ties the songs together. Ten songs that all individually raise a question or issue that is then resolved with a Christian response is not what you'll find in my work. Yet, in each album one will discover resolution and, I hope, a deep and sincere appreciation for the wonder of God's grace in a fallen world.

So these thoughts represent my "approach" to creatively presenting the juxtaposition of reality and mystery in our lives.

(I hope you give Jeff's music a good listen—through headphones if possible. I suggest starting with **SHADOWPLAY**. When I discovered the guy's music, I bought four of his albums in one month. You can get his stuff in Christian bookstores or by writing him directly. Ark Records, PO Box 230073, Tigard, OR 97223)

CROSSFORCE

Tony Crider, the vocalist on the hot demo tape by Golgatha (which is still available), is now fronting Crossforce.

The name, "Crossforce," speaks of the power of God. "After all, says Tony, "it was the power of the Holy Spirit that raised us from our spiritual graves and loosed us of our grave clothes! And this same Holy Spirit wants to loose the untold masses from their stench and unclean bondage and release them from Satan's grasp into the life and light of Jesus Christ our Lord."

Crossforce is: Mark Cassetteri on drums; Phil Castillo on guitar; Jeff Hudson on bass and keyboards; and Tony Crider on rhythm guitar and vocals.

"I believe our material is very catchy, melodic and most of all, the message is one of love, hope and salvation in Jesus Christ," says Tony.

"There's a waking in the air tonight! / There's a battle that we all must fight / For the everlasting light that leads us home / There's a presence that we long to feel / As at the altar of our Lord we kneel / For the weapons that He holds / will heal the wounded soul."—Crossforce lyrics.



Leviticus

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Submit your demos. The top 16 tapes will go on a compilation album. Inside the album will be a voting slip. The top three bands voted for will get a Pure Metal Record contract! Send demos to: Pure Metal Demo Challenge, Attn: Gavin Morkel, 944 Marcon Blvd., Suite 110, Allentown PA 18103.



"May God arise, may His enemies be scattered; may His foes flee before Him. As smoke is blown away by the wind, may You blow them away; as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God. But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.

"Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol Him who rides on the clouds—His name is the Lord—and rejoice before Him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, He leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

"Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

"Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death. Surely God will crush the heads of His enemies, the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins. The Lord says, 'I will bring you from Bashan; I will bring

you from the depths of the sea, that you may plunge your feet in the blood of your foes, while the tongues of your dogs have their share.'

"Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines. Praise God in the great congregation; praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel.

"Summon Your power, O God; show us Your strength, O God, as You have done before.

"Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, to Him who rides the ancient skies above, who thunders with mighty voice. Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the skies. You are awesome, O God, in Your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to His people.

"Praise be to God!" (Psalm 68:1-6, 19-26, 28, 32-35)

Idle Cure cont'd

don't really want all Twila Paris or all Amy Grant, you know? There's a lot of response to Stryper and Undercover in this area—the bands that are really much more on the cutting edge.

"That's an incredible calling for bands. All of us have rock 'n' roll roots and played rock 'n' roll for many years before we became Christians. Our musical designs and our musical goals haven't really changed that much. It's just that, when we became Christians, we changed our focus.

"Idle Cure would very much like to hit the secular market. Sojourn was more of a Christian band, per se. In other words, all the gigs that Sojourn did, we did primarily for the body of Christ. We played at all the Calvary Chapels and various churches. Idle Cure is more aimed at the evangelical side."

Go get 'em guys. Idle Cure has the talent to really go places in the music world. Let's pray God uses 'em and keeps their hearts united with His.

Speaking of commercialism, just because Frontline artists have been on the last two covers, does not mean that Frontline bought me out. It just happened that way.

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